

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 April 2001 (05.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24533 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04N 7/52,
G11B 20/10

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/JP00/06643

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(22) International Filing Date:
27 September 2000 (27.09.2000)

(81) Designated States (*national*): CN, US.

(25) Filing Language: English

(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

(26) Publication Language: English

Published:

(30) Priority Data:
11/279150 30 September 1999 (30.09.1999) JP

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

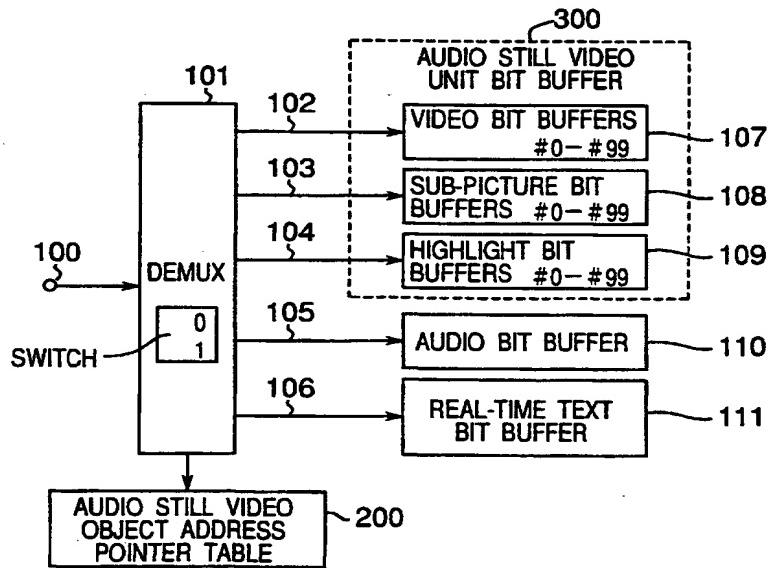
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: A BIT STREAM BUFFERING AND DEMULTIPLEXING APPARATUS FOR A DVD AUDIO DECODING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for bit stream buffering and demultiplexing for a DVD Audio decoder system uses one demultiplexer to demultiplex both audio program stream and audio still video program stream. Demultiplexed audio still video data is stored in the elementary form of ASVU buffer. Storing elementary data as ASVU buffer reduces the storage space and allows the system to check for syntax error in the program stream level earlier. The demultiplexer also generates an audio still video address pointer table indicating the access address for each audio still video object, thus allowing fast random access by the decoder.

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DESCRIPTION

A BIT STREAM BUFFERING AND DEMULTIPLEXING APPARATUS FOR A
DVD AUDIO DECODING SYSTEM

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to implementation of a data buffering and demultiplexing apparatus for a DVD-Audio decoder system.

10 BACKGROUND ART

"DVD Specifications for Read-Only Disc Part 4 Audio Specifications Version 0.9", referred to as "DVD Audio specifications" hereinafter, specifies a new type of data stream, audio still video program stream. Audio still video stream is not multiplexed with audio program stream but stored as separate object on its own. This is different from "DVD Specifications for Read-Only Part 3 Video Specifications Version 1.1", referred to as "DVD Video specifications" hereinafter, where all elementary data streams such as audio, video and sub-picture are multiplexed into one logical program stream. An audio still video object (ASVOB) is formed from three elementary stream objects, namely, highlight information, 1 to 3 sub-pictures and still video. An alternate form exists where an audio still video is formed only by a still video object.

A collection of audio still video objects makes up an audio still video unit (ASVU). A limited number of audio still video objects can exist in one audio still video unit. According to DVD Audio Specifications, one audio still video unit is limited to 99 audio still video objects, and the size is limited to 2 Megabytes. A collection of audio still video units makes up an audio still video stream (ASVUS).

In the DVD Audio specifications, a DVD audio decoder must buffer the whole audio still video unit in an audio still video unit buffer. Two demultiplexers capable of decoding program streams are needed. One of them demultiplexes the audio still video unit program stream from an audio still video unit buffer, and the other demultiplexes the audio program stream from a DVD Audio disc. In addition, DVD Audio specifications also stipulate that the audio still video objects in an audio still video unit can be accessed in any unknown order until the audio still video is to be presently selected. Thus, the starting location of each audio still video in an audio still video unit needs to be known.

Figure 1 shows an example of an implementation based on the decoder model specified in the DVD Audio specifications. When input data is a type of audio still video program stream, the input data is directed by a

selector to be stored (or buffered) into an audio still video buffer (ASVU Buffer) via a pre-loading terminal 0. When the buffering of the data is completed, the selector is switched back to a decoding position 1. When input data 5 is a type of audio program stream, the data is directed to an audio program stream demultiplexer, DEMUX2 and then the demultiplexed data such as audio elementary stream is written into an audio bit buffer and other buffers such as a real time text bit buffer. At the same time, the data 10 from the audio still video unit buffer (ASVU Buffer) is read into the other demultiplexer, DEMUX1, which demultiplexes the data to be written into video, sub-picture and highlight bit buffers. Audio still video address (ASV Address) table stores the start and/or end 15 address of each audio still video object in the audio still video unit. These addresses are used to select the correct audio still video object to be sent to DEMUX1.

Looking at Figure 1, it is obvious that incoming data stream comprises two independent multiplexed program streams, namely, audio still video program stream and audio program stream. From a DVD Audio decoder point of view, 20 this is different from that of a DVD Video decoder. Therefore, two program stream demultiplexers are needed for both audio still video program and audio program. This 25 solution is more costly, because the presently existing DVD

Video decoder system only requires one demultiplexer. Alternatively, a single high speed demultiplexer that could demultiplex two streams simultaneously is needed. This would require a new demultiplexer that is capable of 5 decoding at rate two times that of a conventional demultiplexer. Again, this is more costly than using a slower speed demultiplexer that already exists in the DVD Video decoder.

This invention discloses a method that buffers 10 the demultiplexed audio still video unit stream after it has been demultiplexed by a program stream demultiplexer similar to that used in the current DVD Video decoder system. This means that the invention can be implemented by effectively using only one program stream demultiplexer.

In addition, the size of the bit buffers in the 15 system for storing demultiplexed elementary stream can be reduced. This saving comes from the fact that the size of the audio still video unit after it has been demultiplexed is smaller in size than the original program stream. The 20 other saving comes from the fact that a separate video bit buffer, sub-picture bit buffer and highlight bit buffer are not required anymore. The audio still video unit bit buffer which stores the demultiplexed elementary audio still video data is already in the bit buffer format. This 25 also improves the time it takes to access a specific audio

still video object. It is no longer necessary to send the audio still video object to a demultiplexer first.

In a conventional system, such as a DVD Video demultiplexing of audio/video stream, the program stream is 5 demultiplexed only when it is needed. By performing demultiplexing early during pre-loading of audio still video unit program stream into the audio still video unit bit buffer, the system can detect potential bit stream syntax error in advance, before the data is decoded.

10

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

For the purpose of solving the above-described problems, the bit stream buffering and demultiplexing architecture according to the present invention was 15 designed.

In order to keep the cost of the DVD Audio decoder down by not adding additional demultiplexer in the system, a buffering method which demultiplexes the audio still video unit program stream during the pre-loading to 20 the audio still video unit bit buffer is invented. In order to reduce the amount of bit-stream buffers used in a decoder system, a means for bit buffer memory sharing is invented. In order to help the decoder system better manages bit-stream errors, error checking the program 25 stream syntax during demultiplexing allow the decoder to

detect stream error early, before the DVD Audio decoder needs to present any data to the user. In order to speed up access time in accessing a particular audio still video object from the audio still video unit bit buffer,
5 demultiplexed audio still video unit program stream is stored in the audio still video unit bit buffer. The address locations of each object in an audio still video unit are easily available to speed up accesses as well.

According to an essential feature of the present invention, a bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus for a DVD Audio decoding system comprises: a demultiplexer for demultiplexing a coded program stream to elementary streams; an audio still video unit bit buffer for storing demultiplexed audio still video program streams; a bit stream buffer for storing demultiplexed audio program stream, and an audio still video object address pointer table storing address locations of the demultiplexed audio still video program streams.
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In this construction, the audio still video object address pointer table may further store status information of the demultiplexed audio still video program streams.
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Also, the demultiplexer may comprise: a means for demultiplexing the coded program stream to elementary streams, and a means for switching of writing to
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said audio still video unit bit buffer from said bit stream buffers, the switching occurring whenever input bitstream is audio still video program stream.

Also, the audio still video unit bit buffer
5 for storing the demultiplexed audio still video bit streams may comprise: a means for storing elementary streams of audio still video, and a means for storing start address pointers of all or sub group of elementary streams of an audio still video unit.

10 In this construction, the audio still video unit bit buffer further may comprise a means for storing status information relating to all or sub group of an audio still video unit.

Also, the audio still video address pointer
15 table may comprise: a means for storing start and/or end address pointers of all or sub group of elementary streams of an audio still video unit, and a means for storing status information relating to all or sub group of an audio still video unit.

20 Moreover, the status information storing means may comprise: a means for storing syntax error information, and a means for storing other information related to the audio still video unit.

Another aspect of the present invention provides
25 a bit stream buffering and demultiplexing method for a DVD

Audio decoding system, which comprises the steps of:
demultiplexing a coded program stream to elementary
streams; storing demultiplexed audio still video program
streams; storing demultiplexed audio program stream, and
5 storing address locations of the demultiplexed audio still
video program streams, wherein the demultiplexing step
includes a step of demultiplexing the audio still video
unit program stream during a pre-loading to the audio still
video unit bit buffer.

10 Further another aspect of the present invention
provides a DVD Audio decoding system having a bit stream
buffer and a demultiplexer, wherein the multiplexer is only
one demultiplexer which generates an audio still video
address pointer table indicating an access address for each
15 audio still video object, to demultiplex both audio program
stream and audio still video program stream, and the bit
stream buffer comprises means for storing demultiplexed
audio still video data in an elementary format.

The DVD Audio decoder system reads in bit stream
20 from the DVD Audio disc and sends it to the demultiplexer.
For the DVD Audio decoder, audio still video unit program
stream is read from the disc first and passes to the
demultiplexer. The demultiplexer strips off the program
stream layer and stores elementary video, highlight
25 information and sub-picture streams in the audio still

video unit bit buffer. This is done during the audio still video unit pre-loading specified in the DVD Audio specifications. The demultiplexer also checks the structure of the audio still video program stream to make sure it 5 conforms to the structure outlined in DVD Audio specifications. Bit stream errors are reported to the system. The demultiplexer also keeps track of the location of each audio still video objects demultiplexed. These address locations are buffered to allow random access to 10 specific audio still video object during audio program decoding. After the decoder completes the pre-loading process, audio program stream is read from the DVD Audio disc. The same demultiplexer then demultiplexes the audio program stream that contains audio and other optional 15 streams such as real-time text. Demultiplexed elementary data are stored in appropriate bit buffers.

From the audio bit buffers, audio decoder reads the audio elementary stream, decodes and presents the data out. At the same time, using the audio still video objects 20 address stored in the pointer table, the video, sub-picture and highlight information decoders read in the appropriate audio still video object, decode and present the data to the user. The presentation order of the audio still video objects depends on presentation information stored in the 25 DVD Audio disc or from the interactive controls of the DVD

Audio decoder system user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

These and other objects and features of the present invention will be readily understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which like parts are designated by like reference numerals and in which:

Figure 1 is a prior-art of the current invention;

Figure 2 is an example embodiment of the invented DVD Audio stream buffering and demultiplexing system;

Figure 3 is an example configuration of the audio still video object address pointer table and audio still video unit bit buffer mapping of the embodiment of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is another example configuration of the audio still video object address pointer table and audio still video unit bit buffer mapping of the embodiment of Figure 2.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Before the description proceeds, it is to be noted that, since the basic structures of the preferred embodiments are in common, like parts are designated by the

same reference numerals throughout the accompanying drawings.

An example of an embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to Figure 2. In Figure 2, a program stream comes in from a program stream input terminal 100 to a demultiplexer, DEMUX 101. The input stream is multiplexed according to ISO13818-1 MPEG-2 Program Stream Standard as well as to DVD Audio and Video specifications. DEMUX 101 demultiplexes the program stream into elementary data streams. For the current embodiment of the present invention, but not limited by this, DEMUX supports demultiplexing into the following elementary streams: video, sub-picture, highlight information, audio and other data such as real-time text. The DEMUX 101 demultiplexes the input stream and then the demultiplexed elementary data streams are written into video bit buffers 107, sub-picture bit buffers 108, highlight bit buffers 109, audio bit buffer 110 and other buffers 111 such as real-time text bit buffer.

In this embodiment, video buffers are logical buffers that store all the video objects of all the audio still video objects contained in an audio still video unit. The same is said for sub-picture bit buffers and highlight bit buffers. These 3 groups of bit buffers make up the audio still video unit bit buffer 300. More details on the mapping of this buffer shall be stated later.

There are two types of multiplexed program streams input from the input terminal 100 to DEMUX 101. Audio still video unit stream is a multiplexed of video, sub-picture and highlight data. Audio program stream is a multiplexed of audio and real-time text data. Accordingly, 5 DEMUX 101 may include a switch means for switching the writing of the demultiplexed program streams between the audio still video unit bit buffer (300) and the bit stream buffers (110, 111) in accordance with the types of the input program streams. A selector as shown in Figure 1 may 10 be used as a switch means. Thus, when the input data is a type of audio still video program stream, the demultiplexed data output of DEMUX 101 is directed by the selector to be stored in the audio still video unit bit buffer (300). When the input data is a type of audio program stream, the 15 demultiplexed data output of DEMUX 101 is directed to the bit stream buffers (110, 111).

When the system is performing audio still video pre-loading, audio still video program stream is inputted 20 to DEMUX. DEMUX writes the demultiplexed data via buses 102, 103 and 104 into the respective bit buffers 107, 108 and 109 in the audio still video unit buffer 300. This unit buffer is similar to the ASVU buffer stated in the prior art shown in Fig. 1 except that the elementary data 25 streams are stored instead. During the demultiplexing of

audio still video program stream, DEMUX also calculates the start and end location of each video, sub-picture and highlight elementary streams and stores these addresses in an audio still video object address pointer table 200.

5 This table is essential for random accessing of audio still video object during the decoding phase (or mode) of the decoder.

During audio still video unit demultiplexing, DEMUX can perform various types of stream integrity check 10 such as program stream syntax check or audio still video stream structure check. The number of audio still video objects can be counted and then confirmed with the number stored elsewhere in the disc. The order of video, sub-picture and highlight in an audio still video object can 15 also be double-checked to confirm the validity of the stream. The size of the audio still video unit can also be confirmed against the limit set by the Specification. All these information can provide good indication to the decoder as to the data integrity of the disc.

20 When the system completes audio still video pre-loading, the system inputs audio program stream to start audio decoding. During this time, DEMUX demultiplexes the audio program stream into audio and real-time text elementary streams, and stores the elementary streams data 25 into their respective bit buffers 110 and 111 via buses 105

and 106. At this time, the video, sub-picture, highlight, audio and real-time text elementary streams are read from their respective bit buffers simultaneously and sent to their respective decoder for decoding. The video, sub-
5 picture and highlight elementary streams are accessed depending on which audio still video object within the audio still video unit has been selected for decoding. This information may not be known until 0.4 second before the audio still video object is to be presented, according
10 to DVD Audio Specifications. The audio still video object address pointer table 200 stores the information needed by the decoder to read the correct data from the audio still video unit bit buffer 300.

Figure 3 shows an embodiment of the audio still video object address pointer table 200 and the audio still video unit bit buffer 300. In this embodiment, DEMUX stores the start address pointer of each audio still video object (ASVOB 1-99) it encounters when demultiplexing the audio still video unit program stream as in the audio still video object address pointer table 200. Each of the start addresses in turn points to a start position of each of the audio still video objects stored in the audio still video unit bit buffer 300. The beginning portion of each audio still video object in the audio still video bit buffer
20 further contains pointer addresses that point to the start
25

of sub-picture bit buffer and video bit buffer for that particular audio still video object. Highlight bit buffer does not need pointer address as it immediately follows the video pointer addresses and status information data. It is 5 noted here that the audio still video address pointer table (200) may store start and/or end address pointers of all or sub group of elementary streams of an audio still video unit.

Referring to Figure 3, as to an audio still video 10 object 1 (ASVOB1), an address pointer 201 in the address pointer table 200 points to the beginning of the audio still video object 1 (ASVOB1) in the audio still video bit buffer 300. An arrow line 202 indicates this pointer in Figure 3. The sub-picture address pointer 203 for ASVOB1 15 in turn points to a start location of a sub-picture bit buffer 206 for ASVOB1, and an arrow line 208 shows this pointer. A video address pointer 204 for ASVOB1 immediately after the sub-picture address pointer 203 points to a start location of a video bit buffer 207 for 20 ASVOB1, and an arrow line 209 shows this pointer. Immediately after the video address pointer 204 for ASVOB1, extra status information of ASVOB1 is stored indicative of such as whether the current audio still video object contains valid highlight data, or syntax error information. 25 Numeral 301 shows the status information for ASVOB1. A

highlight bit buffer 205 for ASVOB1 follows immediately after the status information 301 for ASVOB1. In cases when no highlight data or sub-picture exist, setting sub-picture pointer address to 0 will indicate that only a video bit buffer exists in the bit stream.

For most implementation, the audio still video address pointer table would be implemented using an internal static random access memory. For the audio still video unit bit buffer, due to its larger size, it is usually implemented as part of a system memory in an external dynamic random access memory. This particular embodiment for the audio still video address pointer table allows part of the address pointer to be stored in the cheaper dynamic random access memory typically used for audio still video unit bit buffer. The trade off for such system would be longer time to access the addresses to the audio still video objects.

Figure 4 shows an alternate embodiment of the audio still video object address pointer table 200 and audio still video unit bit buffer 300, related to current invention. In this embodiment, the audio still video object address pointer table contains the address pointers needed to access each audio still video objects in the audio still video unit bit buffer. The table also contains extra status information of each audio still video object

to store syntax error information and extra status data.

Unlike previous embodiment in Figure 3, all pointer addresses to access the audio still video objects are stored in the pointer table 200. This embodiment has 5 an advantage of faster accesses to audio still video object start address, with tradeoff of a larger pointer table. The audio still video object start address points to the start address of the specific audio still video object in the audio still video unit buffer. This also points to the 10 highlight bit buffer of the specified audio still video object (ASVOB). The video address pointer points to the specific video bit buffer of the specified audio still video object in the audio still video bit buffer. The start address of each sub-picture bit buffer is calculated 15 indirectly from the audio still video object address pointer.

In this embodiment, size of the highlight bit buffer is limited to 704bytes. Accordingly, the start address of sub-picture bit buffer is 704bytes offset from 20 the start of highlight bit buffer. In the case when no valid highlight information exists in the bit buffer, the status information field for the specific audio still video object will indicate such condition and video address pointer will have value equal to highlight bit buffer start 25 address offset by 704bytes.

The decoder uses the address information stored in the audio still video address pointer table and/or the audio still video unit bit buffer to access the correct audio still video object bit buffers quickly. This is very
5 important for implementing fast random access functions for audio still videos.

Although the present invention has been described in connection with the preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted
10 that various changes and modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications are to be understood as included within the scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims, unless they depart therefrom.

15

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The effect of this invention is a cost efficient implementation of a bit stream buffering and demultiplexing system for DVD Audio decoder system. This is due to the
20 use of only one demultiplexer. Storing of audio still video unit in an elementary form also have the advantages of reducing the size of bit buffer memories and speeding up access to the audio still video object data.

CLAIMS

1. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus for a DVD Audio decoding system comprising:

5 a demultiplexer for demultiplexing a coded program stream to elementary streams;

an audio still video unit bit buffer for storing demultiplexed audio still video program streams;

a bit stream buffer for storing demultiplexed audio program stream, and

10 an audio still video object address pointer table storing address locations of the demultiplexed audio still video program streams.

2. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said audio still 15 video object address pointer table further stores status information of the demultiplexed audio still video program streams.

3. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said demultiplexer 20 comprises:

a means for demultiplexing the coded program stream to elementary streams, and

25 a means for switching of writing to said audio still video unit bit buffer from said bit stream buffers, said switching occurring whenever input bitstream is audio

still video program stream.

4. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said audio still video unit bit buffer for storing the demultiplexed audio still video bit streams comprises: a means for storing elementary streams of audio still video, and a means for storing start address pointers of all or sub group of elementary streams of an audio still video unit.

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370

5. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus according to claim 4 , wherein said audio still video unit bit buffer further comprises a means for storing status information relating to all or sub group of an audio still video unit.

6. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus according to claim 1 , wherein said audio still video address pointer table comprises: a means for storing start and/or end address pointers of all or sub group of elementary streams of an audio still video unit, and a means for storing status information relating to all or sub group of an audio still video unit.

7. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said status information storing means comprises: a means for storing syntax error information, and a means for storing other information related to the audio still video unit.

8. A bit stream buffering and demultiplexing method for a DVD Audio decoding system, comprising the steps of:

demultiplexing a coded program stream to
5 elementary streams;

storing demultiplexed audio still video program streams;

storing demultiplexed audio program stream, and

storing address locations of the demultiplexed
10 audio still video program streams,

wherein the demultiplexing step includes a step of demultiplexing the audio still video unit program stream during a pre-loading to the audio still video unit bit buffer.

15 9. A DVD Audio decoding system having a bit stream buffer and a demultiplexer,

said multiplexer is only one demultiplexer which generates an audio still video address pointer table indicating an access address for each audio still video
20 object, to demultiplex both audio program stream and audio still video program stream,

said bit stream buffer comprising means for storing demultiplexed audio still video data in an elementary format.

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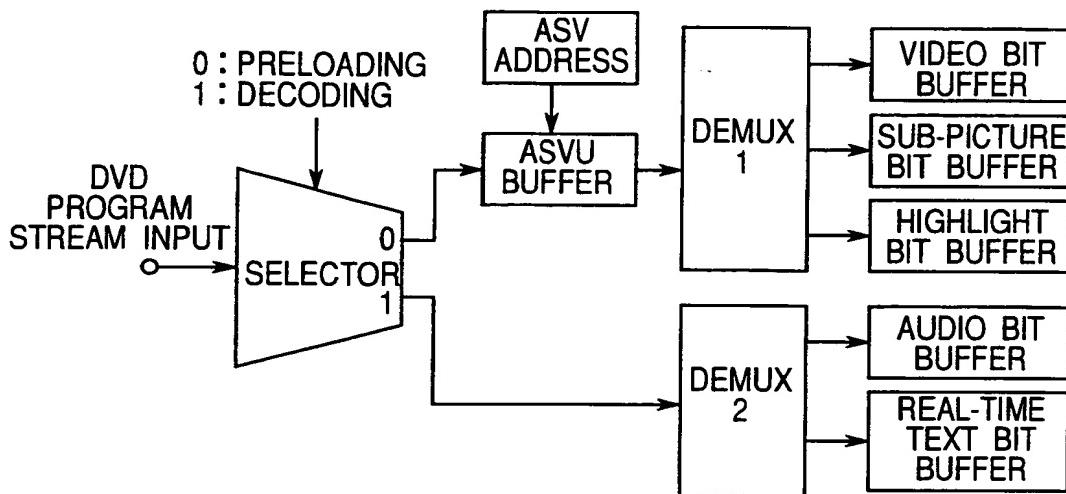
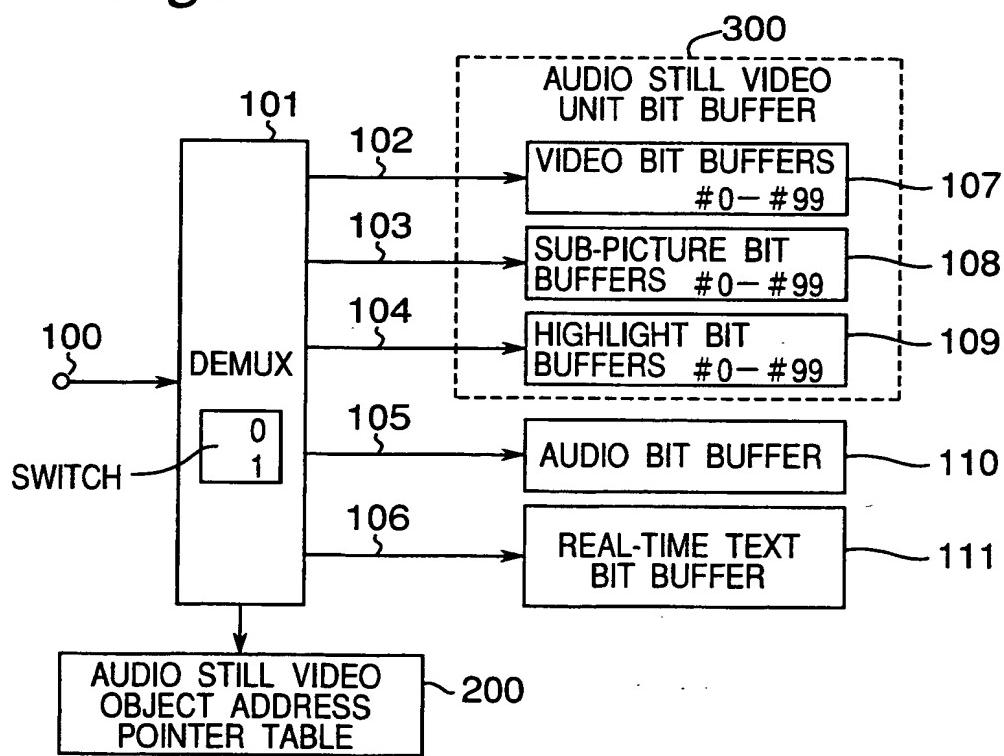
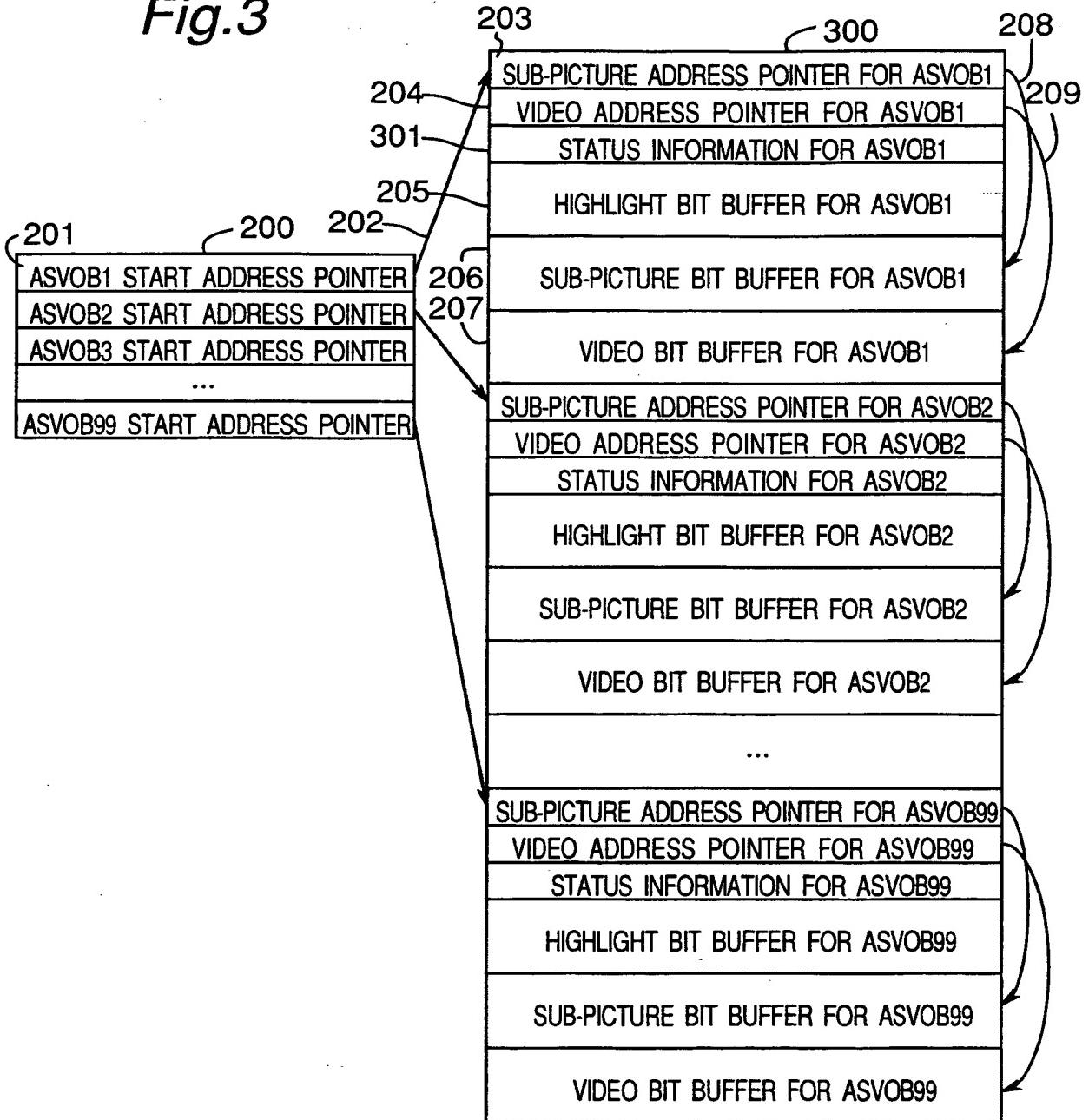
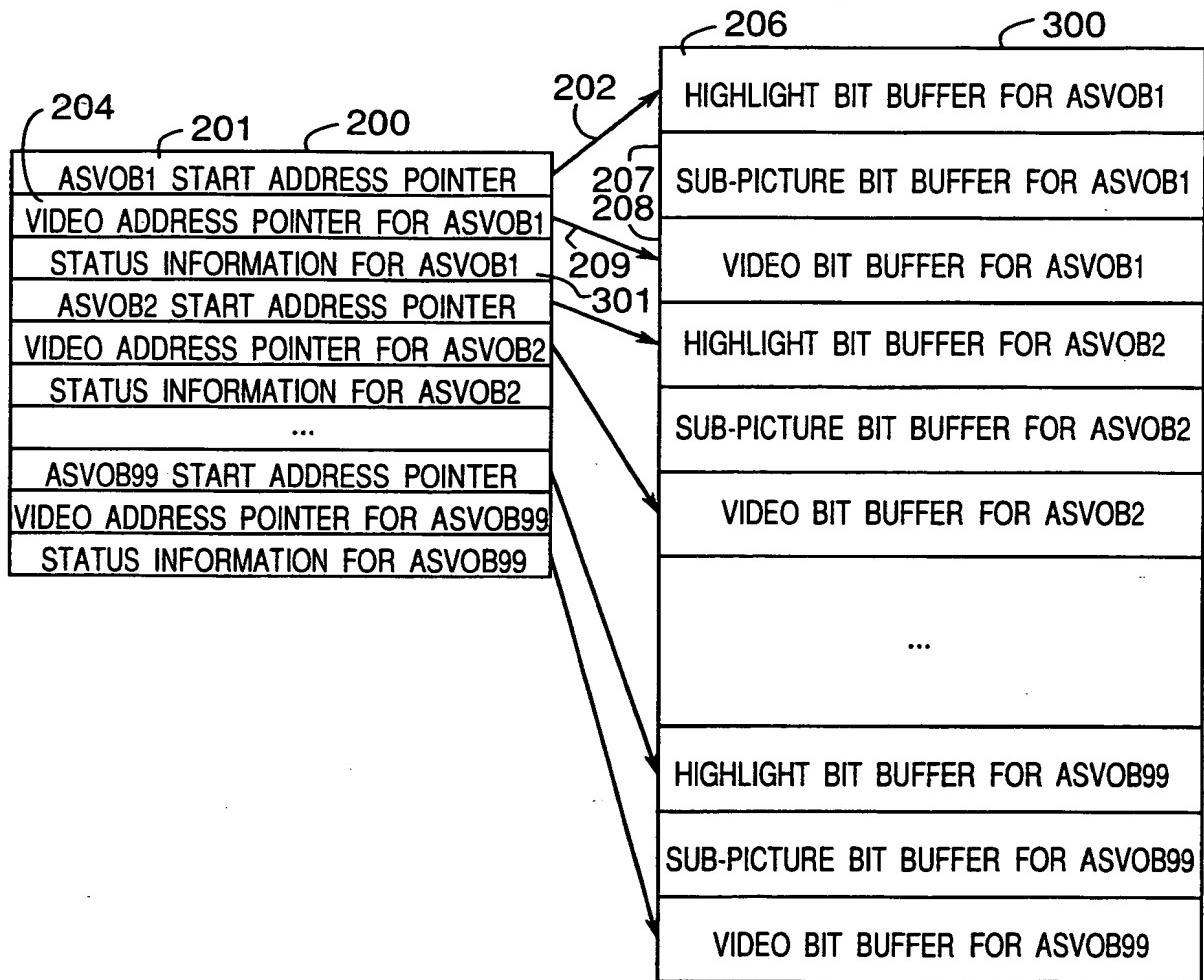
Fig. 1*Fig. 2*

Fig.3

3/3

Fig.4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/JP 00/06643

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 H04N7/52 G11B20/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 H04N G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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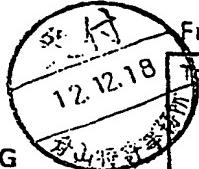
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

**NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)



AOYAMA, Tamotsu
AOYAMA & PARTNERS
IMP Building
3-7, Shiromi 1-chome
Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi
Osaka 540-0001
JAPON

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23 November 2000 (23.11.00)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 662077	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/JP00/06643	International filing date (day/month/year) 27 September 2000 (27.09.00)
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 September 1999 (30.09.99)
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al	

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
3. An asterisk(*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b). In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
4. The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which was not received by the International Bureau or which the applicant did not request the receiving Office to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau, as provided by Rule 17.1(a) or (b), respectively. In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
30 Sept 1999 (30.09.99)	11/279150	JP	17 Nov 2000 (17.11.00)

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorized officer Khemais BRAHMI</p> <p>Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
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NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

AOYAMA, Tamotsu
Aoyama & Partners
IMP Building
3-7, Shiromi 1-chome
Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi
Osaka 540-0001
JAPON

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

05 April 2001 (05.04.01)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

662077

IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No.

PCT/JP00/06643

International filing date (day/month/year)

27 September 2000 (27.09.00)

Priority date (day/month/year)

30 September 1999 (30.09.99)

Applicant

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:
CN,EP

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 05 April 2001 (05.04.01) under No. WO 01/24533

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

J. Zahra

Faxsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

Form PCT/IB/308 (July 1996)

Attachment "A"